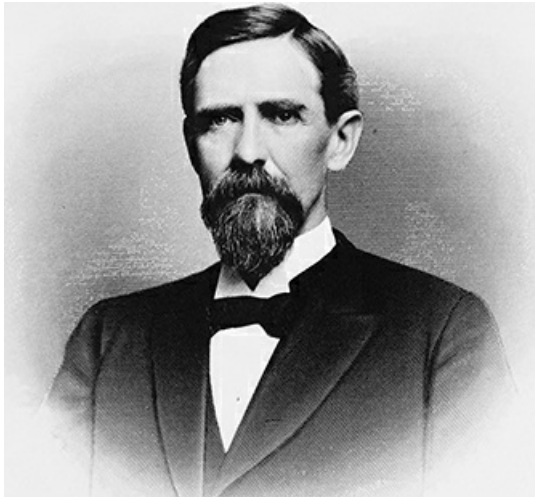


Patterson, Samuel Legerwood ^[1]

Patterson, Samuel Legerwood

by Charles S. Powell IV, 1994

6 Mar. 1850–14 Sept. 1918



Engraving of Samuel Legerwood Patterson, circa 1905. Image from Archive.org.

^[2]Samuel Legerwood Patterson, farmer and legislator, was born at [Palmyra](#) ^[3], the family home located in the Yadkin River valley in [Caldwell County](#) ^[4], the son of [Samuel Finley](#) ^[5] and Phebe Caroline Jones Patterson. His father, a farmer, financier, and businessman, was a member of the state house of representatives and the senate, state [treasurer](#) ^[6], and president of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad for five years. Samuel L. Patterson was educated at Faucette's school, Bingham's, and Wilson's Academy. He entered [The University of North Carolina](#) ^[7] in 1867 but the school closed the following year. He then attended the University of Virginia for one year before taking a clerking job in [Salem](#) ^[8]. On 17 Apr. 1873 he married Mary S. Senseman, the daughter of a [Moravian](#) ^[9] minister from Indiana.

Although a [Republican](#) ^[10], Patterson was appointed county commissioner and district superintendent of the census in a [Democratic](#) ^[11] county. He served in the state house of representatives in 1891 and 1898 and in the state senate in 1893; in the legislature he was chairman of the committee on agriculture and was a member of many other committees. He was also a trustee of The University of North Carolina. Patterson was commissioner of agriculture from 1895 to 1897, when he was removed by the [Fusion party](#) ^[12]. He was reappointed in 1899 and then elected by popular vote through 1908. [Patterson Hall](#) ^[13] at [North Carolina State University](#) ^[14] is named in his honor.

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